Few*

Luke 24:1-11 (1) Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.
(2) And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
(3) And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
(4) And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
(5) And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?
(6) He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
(7) Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.
(8) And they remembered his words,
(9) And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.
(10) It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
(11) And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.
Why so few at the sepulchre? Jesus had repeatedly prophesied of His resurrection, even foretelling the very day on which it would occur. So well known were Jesus' prophecies of His resurrection from the dead on the third day, that even His enemies were aware of them.
Don't take my word, turn with me to;
Matthew 27:62-66 (62) Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came

together unto Pilate,
(63) Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.
(64) Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.
(65) Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.
(66) So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.
Steal Him away? Really? The sepulcher could not be made sure enough to hold the Son of God. Sealing the stone was futile, and the solders could do nothing as He was resurrected, leaving the tomb empty. The Roman seal of authority was broken, witnessed by the soldiers on duty. How could the priests not believed after hearing the first-hand account? When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the sepulcher to anoint spices, upon hearing the angel, they believed. How few believe today. For instance, Muslims teaching is that Jesus was not crucified*, is not the Son of God, and beside this, they are taking advantage of our 'freedom of religion' in an effort to force Islam upon the nation. That is their intent, listen to this;* "Islam wishes to destroy all states and governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and program of Islam regardless of the country or the nation which rules it. The purpose of Islam is to set up a State on the basis of its own ideology and program." SEYED ABUL A'ALA MAUDUDI **(A Guide to Shariah Law vs. the Constitution)**.
Muslims view of 'freedom of religion' is advancement of Islam and destruction of all other religions if Islam is successful in establishing shariah law which is diametrically opposed to the constitution of the USA.
The Church of Christ, however, is built upon Biblical

foundations, did not cease to exist after the great apostasy or the dark ages, and will not cease to exist after Islam is defeated (Revelation 20:7-10). *There is evidence of congregations in antiquity who taught believers baptism, who met on and partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, and were known for congregational singing without musical instruments (trade-marks of the Churches of Christ) before the 1600's.*
{Dr Daniel Featly, (who was one of the translators of the King James Bible) wrote in 1645 of the Churches of Christ meeting in London and elsewhere in his work the 'Dippers Dipt', took those congregations back to 1525. In 1449-1455 Reginald Pecock, sometime bishop of Chichester wrote his most famous work, **'Represser of over-much weeting [blaming] of the Clergie'-**the first major theological work after the Conquest (1066) to be written in the vernacular English. The 'Represser' was a refutation of the Lollards, who called themselves Christians, and the church , the church of Christ, who baptised believers by immersion for the remission of sins. (Traces of the Kingdom).} *However, it is not the purpose here to document the few congregations remaining during troublesome times, but how few believe the words of Jesus which accounts for so few congregations. So, most men in a Christian land believe what the Bible says is true, but they do not believe the things which the Bible teaches, in the sense attached to them by the Spirit of God. This is just the fact. And is the reason why so many oppose the things taught in the Bible. The Bible says,* "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). *How few believe it! The Bible says,* "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). *How few believe it! The Bible says,* "baptism doth also now save us" (1Peter 3:21). *How few believe it! And yet the ordinance of baptism is the sealing act established by Christ for salvation and has been the doctrine of Churches of Christ the entire last days dispensation beginning in Acts*

2:38. Jesus said; Not every one that saith unto me, lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven (Matt 7:21). *Many lost. Few saved. Few in comparison to the number lost: but still a great multitude which no man can number (Rev 7:9).* For by grace are ye saved through faith (Eph 2:8). *Faith in Christ is the effect of believing His gospel, so then, by faith one repents of their darling sins, by faith comes forth ones confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and by faith is baptized for remission of sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit thereby becoming a citizen of His Kingdom.*

"Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is a popular teaching, but the Spirits purpose is to bring to remembrance the teaching of Jesus. It is impossible then to embark upon the path that leadeth unto life if one refuses the Holy Spirit teaching to enter the strait gate of baptism. Thus we must regard Baptism and make it profitable to anyone who will hear it! But few accept it. Why does the Church of Christ baptize only by total immersion? Well, Philip baptized the Eunuch in this manner. Don't take my word, turn to;

Acts 8:36-39 (36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

(37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

(38) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

(39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

This reading is about a repentant believer confessing and being baptized by immersion in water into Christ for the forgiveness

of sins. There is a difference between a repentant believer and a baptized believer. We do not know why God chose the ordinance of baptism as a requirement for salvation, only that He did. Therefore one can obey the commands set forth from God, expressed in His Son and be saved, or reject the command and be lost. Sadly, few there be that find it! Fact is, many deny it. In the salvation of man's soul there are two necessary parts: God's part and man's part. God's part is the big part; For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (Eph 2:8). *The life and sacrifice of Jesus, and the proclaiming of the gospel to men constitute God's part in salvation. Though God's part is the big part, man's part is also necessary if man is to reach heaven. Man must comply with the conditions of pardon which the Lord has announced;*

Hear and believe the Gospel. "How shall they call on him whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14).

Faith that is the effect of belief. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". (Hebrews 11:6).

Repent of past sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent": (Acts 17:30).

Confess Jesus. "Behold here is water; What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believeth with all thy heart thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36-37).

Be baptized for the remission of sins. "And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Live a Christian life. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal

priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).
THE CHOSEN--are those who were baptized into Christ and translated into His Kingdom. To be saved is to be pardoned, to be brought under the scepter of Jesus. Hence all who believed and are baptized, shall be saved, because Christ declared it, (Mark 16:16). Therefore they are prepared for the salvation to be revealed at the last day. "The redemption of our bodies" from the power of the grave, and the transformation into spiritual, incorruptible, and immortal bodies, will be the ultimate triumph of the Saviour and of His disciples. He has become the King eternal, immortal, and invisible. Turn to;
1Corinthians 15:50-58 (50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
(51) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
(52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
(53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
(54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
(55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
(56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
(57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the

Lord.
To this ultimate and eternal salvation, Christians turn your eyes. It is nearer to you now than when you first believed, repented, confessed the Lord and was baptized into Him. Imitate Paul who was willing to do anything, suffer anything, sacrifice every thing, that he might, by the word of God, attain to the resurrection of the righteous. This glorious resurrection is promised to all them who obey the great Captain of Salvation, and to none else, for He became the author of eternal salvation to all them, and to them only who obey him--once, but to the end. Let us, then, press forward to the prize of our calling from above. The prize of immortal glory in the presence of God, the crown of righteousness and life, is that which none but the courageous, persevering, and triumphant can lay hold on. As we sincerely believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead, and have confessed Him before men unto salvation, let us hold fast our confidence and our hope unshaken to the end! Let us so run that we may obtain this most glorious prize. Sadly, few there be that find it. Now turn with me to;
Revelation 21:6-8 (6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
(7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
(8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
Many people today presume that God is with them because they act in a religious manner that seems right. They chant and sing praises to God with waving, uplifted arms to the melody of instrumental music, yet are ignorant of what He has commanded them to do, or they consider what He has said irrelevant. They make the mistake of thinking that worship is

entirely for their own benefit — that is, whatever makes them feel good. Worship is an action word; but it is something that has to pay homage to God, in reverence but according to knowledge. Don't take my word, turn to;
Romans 10:1-3 (1) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
(2) For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.
(3) For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
The Apostle Paul knew why Israel was ignorant of God's righteousness because previously he had been also. Paul acknowledged they had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. They were going about to establish their own righteousness, what "feels good". There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 16:25), *and many go in there-at. It is not the will of God that any should perish, but that all should* ***overcome*** *their darling sins for the joy of eternal life;* He that **overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels (Rev 3:5). *In like manner men must hastily come out of spiritual Babel, out of the confusion and vanities of the world. To do as Peter once said;* Save yourselves from this untoward generation (Acts 2:40). *How?* For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even **our faith** (1John 5:4). *We therefore should be;* Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of **our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). *Jesus is the author, not me. Please turn to;*
Mark 16:15-16 (15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
Seeing Christ Himself is so great a salvation, why would anyone attempt to disbelieve Him? Turn with me to;
Matthew 16:13-18 (13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
(14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
The Church of Christ has overcome all odds until the present time and is built upon the proclamation of Christ. Repentant believers will not be called upon to do anything which cannot be read in the New Testament. Baptized believers will then live and worship just as the apostle-guided Christians of the first century did. Not only is this return to New Testament Christianity a wonderful basis upon which all believers in Christ can unite, it is absolutely solid ground. If we do only what our Lord commanded, we know our salvation is certain. But few there be that find it. Do not take my word, turn to;
Matthew 7:21-23 (21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
(22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works
(23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:

depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The religion of Jesus Christ is a revelation from God, it is not an evolution from man. It is a grace basis salvation by faith in Jesus Christ that is the effect of belief in what God has revealed. The authoritative revelation of God is given and completed in the Bible. No one since John completed Revelation has been able to speak for God with authority as did the apostles in the Holy Spirit; so that the word of God is now the perfect standard and pattern for all men to go by. Remember, the language of men will change, but the truth in the word of God does not.

The one subject the Devil has adjusted to advance his own protocol is the baptism ordained by Christ whereby a person receives remission of sins. It has been said that "Baptism has become the Devil's workshop" and that saying is well justified! For if he can divert one to accept, "baptism is not necessary", the devil has won. However the devil can be defeated by faith that is the effect of belief in the Gospel. But what is this faith we speak of? Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and submission to baptism is the effect of faith; only those who first believe the testimony of God, then by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. This is the strait gate. A strait is a narrow water passageway that a person enters into with their sins intact, and exits sinless. Please accept it while it is day, or if one desires prayer for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

The message 'Few' Revised; 02032020
Study Aids; Traces of the Kingdom
This message presented to; BaronOk-Nov2010/
PineMtAr.-July2017/